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1

i am a medicine cat named adderleap.

2

today, i saw something terrifying.

3

i saw lichenbreeze talk to fallowkit.

4

the tone of his voice sounded like he was in love.

5

that's it.

6

i'm telling hollowstar.

7

"hollowstar?" i say, and hear a reply from his den.

8

"hollowstar, it seems like lichenbreeze likes fallowkit... a lot," i report.

9

"so?" he said.

10

i gasped. "lichenbreeze is fifty-two moons old! fallowkit is five!"

11

he looks sat me, clearly confused.

12

"what's wrong with that?" he asks me.

13

i was furious. "um, the age difference?"

14

he shrugged, "age doesn't really matter."

15

"age does matter a lot, you disgusting cat!" i snarled, then stomped out of the den.

16

that night, i decided two cats needed death.

17

maybe it was weird for a medicine cat to wish death upon her cats, but this was a matter of safety.

18

when i think everyone is asleep, i slip out of my den.

19

then i hear a high-pitched tomcat's voice. "where are you going, adderleap?"

20

whiskerpaw! of course my apprentice is still awake.

21

i don't even turn around. "go back to sleep, whiskerpaw."

22

"no."

23

"listen," i said. "i have important things to do tonight, and you *cannot* come."

24

he flattens his silver ears. "*why*?"

25

i rolled my eyes. "because *someone* won't get their medicine cat ceremony for a very long time if you don't."

26

he goes back to his nest. i manage to walk alone until i pass the elder's den.

27

"adderleap?" i hear an elder meow. it was berryfleck.

28

i walk into the den and signal for him to walk back into the clearing with me.

29

i feel i can trust him, so i tell everything. my mission, what hollowstar said, how my friend as a kit was 'taken'...

30

he listens to every word i say. then, he said something that surprised me.

31

"let's go find lichenbreeze."

32

we sneak into the warrior's den.

33

lichenbreeze isn't there, so i check the nursery.

34

fallowkit was not there.

35

suddenly, berryspeck lashes out at something outside the nursery.

36

my heart races, and i see the elder's paw coated in sticky blood

37

then, something falls to the ground with a dull *thud*. i look over to see none other than...

38

lichenbreeze

39

i see a cat's eye, and i realize that berryspeck ripped it out.

40

i turn to him and he points towards a smaller body in the distance.

41

when i go investigate, i realize it must be fallowkit.

her breathing was labored, and she was shaking all over.

43

"poor kitten," berryspeck meows. "this must've been what happened to your friend."

44

i say nothing and head for the leader's den.

45

berryspeck follows me in. i smirk as i notice the shadow of hollowstar, fast asleep.

46

i sink my claws into hollowstar's neck. *i've forgotten how nice it feels to kill someone who deserved it,* i thought.

47

i signal with a flick of my tail to leave his den, when i hear a voice behind us.

48

"loyal warriors don't kill their leaders."

49

i forgot he had three lives left! i start to panic.

50

berryspeck comes to my rescue. he does the same thing he did to lichenbreeze, and ripped his eyes out.

51

hollowstar let out a screech. we decided to run now.

52

i run deep into the forest, praying hollowstar is gone for good.

53

berryspeck decides we should rest for the night, so we each make a nest in an abandoned burrow.

54

i fall asleep, yet my dreams are haunted by kittens crying out in pain and hollowstar and lichenbreeze back from the dead.

55

the next morning, i go nearer to riverclan. i am on the other side of their border, to be precise.

56

then i see a young brown molly with yellow eyes. *she will be important to my plan*, i think.

57

"hey you!" i call. she turns to me. "yeah, you. i have a favor to ask of you."

58

she tips her head to the side. "please, call me aspenpaw. but what do ya want?"

59

"i need you to..." i stop. i must be forgetting things in my old age. i tell aspenpaw that i need her to find out if any older cats are in love with young cats. "okay," she says.

60

she turns away to go find out, when aspenpaw gasps. i blink. "yes?"

61

"i remember an old molly named leafspot was talking about a weird thing i didn't understand to turtlekit." aspenpaw meows.

62

"well," i say, "tell this cat that turtlekit wants to meet her right where we are now. the border."

63

i wait for a while, and dawn slowly turns to midday. then a tortoishell and white molly appears.

64

i spring upon this disgusting cat and latch my claws into her eyes. she shakes madly in an attempt to unhinge me and then collapses to the ground.

65

i wish i knew where aspenpaw was - she seemed wise beyond her moons.

66

then, i sense i'm being watched.

67

"hey there," i see a sleek-furred black tomcat. he looks like a senior warrior. "i tried to save her!" i lie. he looks confused.

68

his gaze turns to leafspot. "oh... she was a bad cat." he looks back at me. "i'm nightleg."

69

i hear more cats nearby. "nightleg?" i meow. "we need to leave."

70

i miss aspenpaw. she would be a good medicine cat.

71

it is nighttime again. when i curl up in my makeshift nest, i wonder what other cats are in need of death.

72

i feel a cat's tail wrap around me. "don't even think about it," i hiss at nightleg. he looks hurt. "i'm a medicine cat," i explain.

73

i wake up later in the night and find nightleg pressed up next to me. for once, i don't care. *maybe i can settle down now. maybe the clans are safe.*

74

what am i thinking? there are plenty of gross cats out there still.

75

then i remember berryspeck. *he must have starved to death,* i held back a wail of anguish before realizing i have no proof.

76

i head up to windclan territory.

77

"wait up, adderleap!" a familiar molly's voice calls.

78

aspenpaw!

79

i watch the short brown molly run toward me. she purrs and sits on my paws.

80

aspenpaw explains how she'd abandoned her clan, all for me.

81

together, we make plans on how to kill some cats. i've *seen* cardinalwhisker do bad things to apprentices at gatherings.

82

i should know. it happened to me once.

83

i teach aspenpaw everything.

84

i teach her how to honor her ancestors, and how to kill.

85

i even give her the warrior name 'aspenpool'.

86

i told her it was because the moonpool was pretty, too.

87

one night, i think about nightleg.

88

i looked at aspenpaw - she'd refused a new name - and thought she made me feel like he did, only better.

89

i wake aspenpaw up.

90

i was going to tell her i loved her. then i realized what i'd done.

91

i leave to find the sharpest rock i can.

92

i remind myself i am scum, and truly deserve death.

93

i wish i had just stayed with nightleg and berryfleck, and been happy with them.

94

i take a flying leap and belly-land on the sharpest point of the rock.

95

i realize what a bad cat i was. my intentions were good, but i was not.

96

goodbye.

97

i was adderleap.

98

and today, i became something terrible.

99

i was in love with an apprentice.

100

the forest is now truly pure.

trivia

➳ adderleap was a pedophile ocd, rather than a pedophile (submitted by @shadedivy)

➳ aspenpaw will go on to become the leader of riverclan

➳ this story took place in shadowclan

➳ adderleap was hollowstar's aunt

➳ nightleg did have feelings for adderleap, but adderleap was a little worried that starclan would frown upon it

➳ adderleap is free to walk between starclan and the dark forest, as she did kill some of the worst pedophiles, including herself

➳ berryfleck was taken in by riverclan and later drowned

➳ the rock that adderleap used to kill herself was later known as the 'dark rock', and all the bad cats were left there to either die, or be picked apart like crowfood